



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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AUGUST 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

During the month of August, Lake Superior reached its annual plateau. The mean August water level was 602.62 ft, equal to the July 2015 mean water level. The seasonal rise was less pronounced on Lake Superior during 2014 than during 2015. As a result, mean monthly water levels have been approaching their levels of one year ago since April. As of August 2015, Lake Superior was at the same level of August 2014. The August 2015 level was 6 inches higher than the long term average August level. During August, Lake Superior's mean level was 18 inches above chart datum. The Lake Superior basin received 10% more than average August precipitation, but average precipitation over the last 12 months. Lake Superior is projected to be lower than 2014 levels throughout the 6-month forecast period, but 3 to 6 inches above long term average levels. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 6 to 18 inches above chart datum through February.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron fell slightly from July (579.79 in August compared to 579.82 in July). August levels were 7 inches higher than long term average August levels, marking the 12th consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. The mean monthly water level was 27 inches above chart datum. Lake Michigan-Huron received 5% higher August precipitation than average, and has experienced about 93% of average precipitation during the past 12 months. The seasonal rise has been less pronounced this year than during 2014. As a result, mean monthly water levels have been approaching levels seen last year. August levels were 9 inches higher than 2014 levels, but the lake is expected to fall to below 2014 levels by December. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is projected to be 7 inches above to 2 inches below last year's levels, and 7 to 8 inches above long term average levels. Levels are predicted to be 17 to 26 inches above chart datum through February.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair was in its seasonal decline during August. Lake St. Clair's mean water level fell 3 inches from July to achieve a mean August level of 575.72 ft. The lake's mean level in August was 9 inches above its level of a year ago and 13 inches above long term average levels. Lake St. Clair is forecasted to return to last year's levels by December of this year. Levels are forecast to be 9 to 14 inches above long term average levels through February.

LAKE ERIE

After a larger-than-average seasonal rise, which ended in July, Lake Erie's level has declined during August. The Lake Erie basin received 86% of average August precipitation. During August, Lake Erie's mean level was 572.90 ft, 5 inches less than July's mean level. The August level was 15 inches above its long term average August level, and 10 inches higher than August 2014. Lake Erie is projected to be 2 to 9 inches above its level of a year ago through February. The lake is expected to be 9 to 13 inches above its LTA through February.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's mean August level (246.42 ft) was 4 inches lower than July's level. The lake's August level was 6 inches higher than its level of a year ago and 9 inches above its long term average August level. The Lake Ontario basin received near average August precipitation, but has experienced 83% of average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be between 1 and 6 inches above last year's levels and 1 inch below to 6 inches above long term average levels through February.